



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE
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U.S. ATTORNEY AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ANNOUNCE SENTENCE IN PASSPORT FRAUD CASE

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and James P. Ennis, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Boston Field Office, today announced that **DAVID ALEXANDER BERTRAND**, 46, of New York City, was sentenced to one year probation after pleading guilty in U.S. District Court in Concord to a charge of making false statements on an application for a United States Passport. During the term of his probation, Bertrand's behavior will be monitored by the United States Probation Office.

BERTRAND was indicted by a federal grand jury in September, 2005 after his passport application was found to contain false statements by personnel at the National Passport Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The indictment charged that **BERTRAND**, a citizen of the Dominica, West Indies, falsified a United States Passport Application by claiming that he was a United States citizen, and that he was born in Patterson, New Jersey.

BERTRAND admitted the passport application also set forth another individual's social security number, and was submitted to the State Department together with a counterfeit New Jersey birth certificate. When interviewed by Diplomatic Security Service agents in November, 2004, **BERTRAND** admitted that he was not a citizen, and that he had purchased the birth certificate and other supporting documents for \$4,000.00.

The case is being prosecuted as part of Operation Checkmate, a joint initiative of the U.S. Attorney's Office, the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security, the Department of Homeland Security Bureau of Customs and Immigration Enforcement, and the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General. The goal of Operation Checkmate is to eliminate passport fraud, and thereby reduce identity theft while securing the Nation's borders. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Gunnison.